

education budget to pay for the massive tax cuts for the wealthy. These 10 million young voters, along with their parents and grandparents who share the growing financial burden of higher education, elected a Democratic majority in Congress because they know our party has continually stood for making a college education an affordable goal for all American students.

Mr. Speaker, these families will soon see results. Within the first 100 hours of taking office next January, Democrats will broaden college opportunities for all students.

□ 1015

#### AMERICANS WANT A CHANGE IN STRATEGY IN IRAQ

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, last week the American people voiced their strong opposition to the handling of the war in Iraq. On the day after the election, it appeared that President Bush had finally gotten the message when he removed Secretary Rumsfeld, the man who bears a great deal of responsibility for the failed Iraq policy. However, there is now some doubt whether the President fully comprehended the magnitude of the quagmire his administration created and continues to defend.

The situation in Iraq is getting worse, not better. October was the deadliest month for American troops in over 2 years, and they continue to play referee in a civil war between the Sunnis and the Shiites.

It is clear after last week's election that the American people want a change in strategy. It is time for the Iraqi people to take control of their country and to stop the sectarian violence that has made it impossible to bring stability to that nation. American troops cannot do it for them. They have got to do it for themselves.

Therefore, it is time to begin redeploying our troops out of Iraq so that we can better protect our Nation. The President's own intelligence agencies say the war in Iraq is making us less safe.

When Democrats take control of Congress next year, we will advocate for a phased redeployment so we can better protect the homeland from terrorist attacks.

#### DEMOCRATS WILL HIT THE ROAD RUNNING WITH AN AGENDA FOR ALL AMERICANS

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, when Democrats take over the House in January, we are going to hit the road running, moving forward on an agenda that every American should be able to embrace.

Within the first 100 hours, Democrats pledge to bring legislation to the House floor that would increase the minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25 an hour to more than 6 million American workers.

We will also give the Secretary of Health and Human Services the ability to negotiate lower drug prices, something that the Republican drug law specifically prohibited.

We will also repeal billions in tax breaks for big oil companies, companies that experienced record profits this summer while they were gouging the American consumer.

Democrats also plan to help college students with skyrocketing college costs by cutting their student loan interest payments in half, something that could save future graduates about \$5,000 over the lifetime of the loan.

All of this, plus fully implementing the 9/11 Commission's recommendations, and we will do that all in the first 100 hours.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

#### FRANNIE, WYOMING, LAND CONVEYANCE

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 101) to convey to the town of Frannie, Wyoming, certain land withdrawn by the Commissioner of Reclamation.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 101

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO THE TOWN OF FRANNIE, WYOMING.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary of the Interior shall convey by quitclaim deed, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the parcel of land described in subsection (b) to the town of Frannie, Wyoming.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The parcel of land referred to in subsection (a) is the parcel of land withdrawn by the Commissioner of Reclamation—

(1) consisting of approximately 37,500 square feet;

(2) located in the town of Frannie, Wyoming; and

(3) more particularly described in the approved Plat of Survey of Frannie Townsite, Wyoming, as the North ½ of Block 26, T. 58 N., R. 97 W.

(c) RESERVATION OF MINERAL RIGHTS.—The conveyance under subsection (a) shall be subject to the reservation by the United States of any oil and gas rights.

(d) REVOCATIONS.—

(1) SPECIAL USE PERMIT.—The special use permit issued by the Commissioner of Reclamation, numbered O-LM-60-L1413, and dated April 20, 1990, is revoked with respect to the land described in subsection (b).

(2) SECRETARIAL ORDERS.—The following Secretarial Orders issued by the Commissioner of Reclamation are revoked with respect to the land described in subsection (b):

(A) The Secretarial Order for the withdrawal of land for the Shoshone Reclamation Project dated October 21, 1913, as amended.

(B) The Secretarial Order for the withdrawal of land for the Frannie Townsite Reservation dated April 19, 1920.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia.

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

S. 101, introduced by Senator MIKE ENZI, and supported by our Wyoming colleague, BARBARA CUBIN, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to convey a parcel of land to the town of Frannie, Wyoming. The land in question is less than 1 acre and equates to approximately half a city block.

The Bureau of Reclamation has not used this land for many years, and the town has actually managed it for the last 15 years. As the land is no longer needed for reclamation projects, the town would like to use this land to build a community center.

The Department of the Interior has testified in support of this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this noncontroversial bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. RAHALL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of S. 101 is to convey a small parcel of Federal land to the town of Frannie, Wyoming.

While we do not object to passage of S. 101, we do want to ensure that we address concerns raised at the December 7, 2005, hearing of the Subcommittee on Water and Power regarding the intent of Congress with respect to the ownership of this parcel and the purpose for which it will be used.

Mr. Speaker, I will include in the RECORD at this point two letters received from the town of Frannie by Water and Power Subcommittee Ranking Member GRACE NAPOLITANO.

TOWN OF FRANNIE,

Frannie, WY, December 15, 2005.

Hon. GRACE NAPOLITANO,  
Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE NAPOLITANO: It has come to our attention that there were concerns expressed over the Town of Frannie gaining ownership of federal lands in Frannie Wyoming and then immediately disposing of them. As a smaller governmental entity, we fully understand the concerns on this issue.

One of the unique features in the Town of Frannie is on the NE¼ of Block 26. The Town